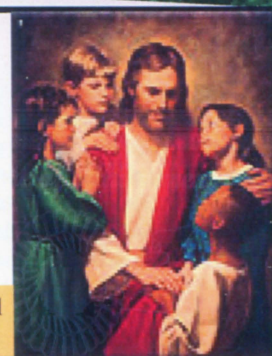
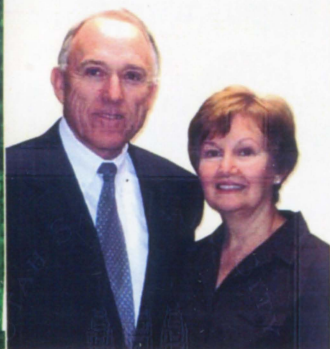


# VOICE OF THE VINEYARD



"For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given; and the government shall be upon His shoulder; and His name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, The Mighty God, The Everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace." **Isaiah 9:5**



Sister Moeller and I hope each of you had a wonderful Christmas season. We hope it was more filled with the true spirit of Christmas than ever before in your life. Our mission was truly blessed to have Elder M. Russell Ballard spend some time with us and give us an Apostolic Blessing.

Elder Ballard has asked us missionaries to keep focused on the restoration of the gospel through the Prophet Joseph Smith. In a letter I received this week from Elder Ballard he says in part, "Teach your missionaries that they never get a second chance to make a first impression. They are servants of the Lord. They should radiate the light of the gospel in their faces and in their actions. There should be nothing in their conduct or appearance that attracts attention to themselves rather than to their message of the restoration."

Part of the first impression we make comes from our enthusiasm. It has been said about enthusiasm that it is "the greatest asset in the world. It beats money and power and influence. It is nothing more or less than faith in action." The Greek definition of this word is "God in us." This definition gives this word its clearest and loftiest meaning.

Emerson said, "Every great and commanding movement in the annals of the world is the triumph of enthusiasm. Nothing great was ever achieved without it."

President Hinckley's father, Bryant S. Hinckley, said of enthusiasm, "It has in it the qualities of fervor, warmth, and persuasion. Opposition strengthens it. It flourishes in adversity and inspires to deeds of heroism and renown. In fact it is the inspiration for all great things."

If the first impression we make is to radiate the light of the gospel in our faces and in our actions as requested by Elder Ballard, we must be imbued with enthusiasm, i.e. "God in us."

I believe that enthusiasm to share the gospel grows with obedience, hard work, gospel study and fervent prayer. May we bring the happiness and joy of the gospel to all we meet through our great enthusiasm and excitement for the work.

With much love, President and Sister Moeller



## The Assistants Thought

"Two roads diverged in a yellow wood, and I took the one less traveled by." This line of poetry by Robert Frost has evoked great feelings in my heart, and has inspired me on countless occasions when faced with making decisions. The Lord also spoke of two roads diverged in a Telesstial forest (Matthew 7:13-14). There are many that travel the lower road, the multiple lane freeway lined with neon signs advertising freedom and a perpetual happy hour, directing one and all to the "Great and Spacious Building" (1 Nephi 8:26-27; 11:34-36). Yet, here we are the "Great and Noble Ones" (Abraham 3:22-25), who've risen above the average ways of the world, and have chosen the "road less traveled by". We all understand that this path is not easy for it leads us right across the everlasting gulf of misery (Helaman 3:29). Yet it is our challenge, when surrounded by the secular smog (1 Nephi 8:23), to grab hold of the iron rod (1 Nephi 8:19) which leads us to the Tree of Life (1 Nephi 8:10-12).

Nephi is taught by an angel of the Lord what this tree represents, and then tells that this is what is "most joyous to the soul" (1 Nephi 11:21-23). It is also our prerogative to be able to receive this great joy, but which takes great effort.

In a world that mocks at discipline and holds up fake individuality, we understand that a disciple is born of discipline. Hence we are told that to obey is better than to sacrifice (1 Samuel 15:22). Thus even Christ first had to be obedient before being the Sacrificial Lamb (Hebrews 5:8-9). As a result we come to learn on our journey of discipleship that freedom is purchased with the price of obedience.

Furthermore, while journeying on this lesser known road we cannot be weighed down by things that will canker (Mormon 8:38). Thus "taking up the cross first requires denying ourselves the lusts and appetites of the flesh." (Whom the Lord Loveth, the Journey of Discipleship, Neal A. Maxwell, pg. 29). It is also important that we do not have second thoughts of things we leave behind, in fear of becoming as a pillar of salt (Genesis 19:26). Thus sacrifice is the second requirement. (See also JST Matthew 16:26)

We are told by those that scoff at us that God rules over us with a rod of iron (Revelations 2:27). Yet these are they who are puffed up individualists that turn their heads when offered the rod of iron, which is the "word of God" (1 Nephi 15:23-24). Let us remember that it is this rod of iron that guides us to the Tree of Life. May you have a serendipitous New Year!!!

Elder Abeyasekera, Elder Wajchman & Elder Haight



## HAPPY BIRTHDAY

|        |                 |        |                    |
|--------|-----------------|--------|--------------------|
| 05 Jan | Elder Rodriguez | 20 Jan | Elder Esekia       |
| 08 Jan | Elder Hatt      | 23 Jan | Elder Stallings    |
| 08 Jan | Elder Wheeler   | 29 Jan | Elder Matthews     |
| 09 Jan | Elder Reese     | 06 Feb | Elder Seare        |
| 16 Jan | Elder Allman    | 10 Feb | Elder Thornton     |
| 16 Jan | Sister Whitlock | 13 Feb | Sister Littleford* |
| 18 Jan | Sister Pollock* |        |                    |

\* Senior Missionaries

## "Housing Hints" From the Brays

We would like to take this opportunity to thank Elder & Sister James for the service they have given to the Utah Salt Lake City Mission for the past 18 months as our Apartment Inspectors.

We have grown to love them but we know they have yet to serve in other areas of the Church and we wish them well.

We would like to welcome Elder & Sister Astill as our new Apartment Inspectors. They are a fun couple and we are excited to get to know them and work with them.

We hope you will extend yourselves to them and make them welcome. Let's show them what wonderful stewards you are by continuing to keep your apartments clean and orderly. Most of you are doing a great job! Just remember to "Clean As You Go"!

**Just a quick hint for December:** Always cover food that you are putting into the microwave, even if it's just with a paper towel. It saves on messy splatters and clean-up!

Love Elder & Sister Bray



## VEHICLE MESSAGE FROM ELDER NORTON

**November's DVRs: Congratulations to Helaman Zone, Temple Zone, Tooele Zone and West Valley Zone – all DVRs on time with all gas receipts!!!! Outstanding!!!!!!**  
**Again, on time is to me by the 5<sup>th</sup> of the month.**

**A Reminder Again --** Please record all of your gas purchases and keep your receipts. Complete the DVR ending mileage and give the white copy of the DVR and all receipts to your Zone Leader.

**Accidents for November:** Well, we probably don't want to discuss it but we had SEVEN accidents and three drivers lost their driving privilege. Unfortunately we are continuing the accelerated accident rate in December—we've already had seven more accidents and four more drivers will probably lose their driving privilege. ***Again and again, extreme caution must continue to be your watch word.*** Please allow extra time so you don't have to push the margin of safety. **Remember that your car is made available from sacred tithing monies!** Please treat your car better than you would if it were your own—keep it clean inside and out, don't abuse your car—rather treat it with the greatest degree of reverence!

**Continue to make your car a tool—not a distraction—in moving this great work forward.**

**Thank You and Bless You for Your Great Work!!!!!! Love Elder Norton**







# Departing Missionaries



**Elder Bishan Ravindra Abeyasekera**  
Sri Lanka  
babeyasekera@yahoo.com

And there was war in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels, and prevailed not; neither was their place found any more in heaven. Behold he soweth the tares, and the enemy is combined. But behold, in the last days even now while the Lord is beginning to bring forth the word, angels are crying unto the Lord day and night, who are ready and waiting to be sent forth to reap down the fields. For behold the field is white already to harvest, and lo he that thrusteth in his sickle with his might, the same layeth up in store that he perisheth not, but bringeth salvation to his soul. And inasmuch as he is faithful, I will crown him with sheaves. First gather out the wheat from among the tares. Yea they shall not be beaten down by the storm at the last day...but when the storm cometh they shall be gathered together in their place, that the storm cannot penetrate to them. I Jesus have sent mine angel to testify unto you these things. Wherefore by the ministering of angels and by every word which proceedeth forth out of the mouth of God, men began to exercise faith in Christ. There are no angels who minister to this earth but those who do belong or have belonged to it. How great is your calling. Cleanse your hearts and your garments, lest the blood of this generation be required at your hand.

**Remember who you are!!!** Love Elder Abeyasekera



**Sister Areli Alvarez**  
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summerfun402@yahoo.com

It seems like I just got here...I'm just getting started and now I'm told I have to leave?! I am so grateful to my Father in Heaven for all that He has given me, from the wonderful examples in my youth to the doors He opened and the fires He put out in order for me to embark on this amazing journey! I've learned for myself that time really does fly when you're having fun. Amidst all of the "hard" times what always comes to mind first are the fun moments. And as I look back a lot of those so-called "hard times", they are funny to me now :) I appreciate all of the missionaries that I have had the blessing to serve around and those of you whom I don't know I'm positive that some future day we will be called once again to fight on the battle front for our Savior. The Lord is first and foremost in my life and will forever continue to be. I love this gospel with all my heart. I invite you to make it an intricate part of you. Live this time you have like there is no tomorrow. Remember who you are, who you represent. Learn and grow, take advantage of this time to polish your rough edges. You and those you come in contact with throughout all your days will love and appreciate you for your sacrifice and devotion to the Lord and this work! A mis queridas companeras...a todos las que estan y a las que se han ido les quiero decir Gracias y les estimo por las mujeres valientes y poderosas que son. Les amo y estimo muchisimo a todos! Hasta Pronto! Love Sister Alvarez



**Elder Tevita Falahola**  
404 Slaughter Lane  
Euless, Texas 76040  
itstevita@hotmail.com

Here's a little reality check: In the time that we're privileged to serve the Lord:

- You sleep for a total of eight months.
- You study for a total of two months.
- You're in meetings (Zone Conference, District Meetings, Church, etc.) for a total of at least 19 days.
- You eat for a total of two months.
- You are out working for less than 9 months.
- If you were to teach a lesson everyday to an investigator, then you have only taught for a total of about one month.

The Lord's time is truly precious. I've enjoyed serving Him, and I will continue to always serve Him. You truly are engaged in a marvelous work. It is an honor to be part of the Lord's great army. I have enjoyed serving around those that I could. I have learned so much from many of you, and will always cherish these memories in my heart. Strive for charity, and always remember that it is different from infatuation.

To my boys, who represent the South Pacific to the beautiful America's and even expanding out to Asia, you all have a place in my hearts.

Our Savior's love is real. We can all feel it, and all can be at peace because of it. I am indebted to my Redeemer, The Great Lord Jehovah. My small payment consists of my love and obedience to his words.

The simple prayer that took place in the Sacred Grove did change the World. It changed mine, and it continues to change the lives of many. You cherish the gospel more as you share it. Remain a keeper of the Faith. Ofa Lahi Atu!!! Adieu. - Philippians 4:13

Love your Brother, Elder Tevita Falahola



**Elder Mark Aaron Fallows**  
32309 169th Ave. SE  
Auburn, Washington 98092  
markfallows@mylds.net

El momento de ir vino ya. It's amazing to see how fast the mission goes by. Time flies when you're having fun! Especially when you've had so many different areas and companions in three different missions! I've been extremely blessed with being able to see lives changed for the better in many different parts of the Lord's vineyard. From the Ohio River in Kentucky to the Orinoco River in Venezuela, and from the Grant Flat top mountains of La Gran Sabana to the snow topped mountains of Utah. I've learned so much from the mission and my testimony has grown as I've shared it with others. It hasn't always been easy though, and through the trials and obstacles I've had in the mission, whether it be investigators that don't progress, weird sicknesses that you can only find in Venezuela, or crazy people in the street calling you spies for the CIA, I've grown a wee bit stronger each time. As for the new Elders coming in, do your best to learn the doctrine and obey with exactness, and then you'll be entitled to many great blessings on your mission. The Book of Mormon is truly the word of God and is the most correct of any book in the world. Joseph Smith was a prophet of God. This is the true church of Jesus Christ. It's been a pleasure to be here in the Salt Lake City Mission. ¡Chau Chamitos! Su pana venezolano.

Love Elder Fallows



# Welcome New Missionaries!

INCOMING MISSIONARIES JANUARY 4, 2006

\*Spanish Program



Sister Jackson  
Carbondale,  
Illinois



Elder Johnson  
Wiggins,  
Mississippi



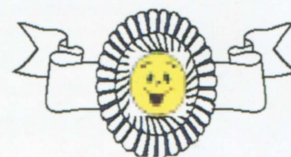
Sister Quiros  
Panama,  
Panama\*



Sister Wolter  
Canal Fulton,  
Ohio



Certificate of Achievement



**SKILLED TEACHER**  
ELDER RYAN CARTER  
ELDER ROSENBERG  
ELDER WACHMAN



## Nov & Dec Baptisms:

|                  | Nov     | Dec |
|------------------|---------|-----|
| Granite.....     | 08..... | 16  |
| Helaman.....     | 17..... | 12  |
| Magna.....       | 18..... | 20  |
| Olympus.....     | 04..... | 11  |
| Pioneer.....     | 05..... | 12  |
| Temple.....      | 20..... | 09  |
| Tooele.....      | 17..... | 18  |
| West Valley..... | 23..... | 18  |
| Wyoming.....     | 10..... | 07  |

## Mission Totals For:

|          |     |
|----------|-----|
| Dec..... | 123 |
| Nov..... | 128 |

# "Master Teacher"



Sister Greer  
Maryland



Elder Rosenberg  
Pennsylvania



Sister Whitlock  
Nevada

For the Utah Salt Lake City Mission 2006

## EMERGENCY NUMBERS TO SAVE YOUR SOUL

|   |                   |
|---|-------------------|
| When you need relief from pain, call.....             | D&C 132:22-24     |
| When you lose your way, call.....                     | John 14:3-6       |
| If the whole world is against you, call.....          | John 15:18-19     |
| If you grow weary, call.....                          | Gal. 6:9-19       |
| When the world presses in, call.....                  | Col. 3:2          |
| When you are alone, call.....                         | D&C 84:88         |
| When you have trouble letting the world go, call..... | 1 Tim. 6:7-11     |
| When God seems far away, call.....                    | D&C 88:63         |
| When your soul is mired in darkness, call.....        | D&C 88:67-68      |
| When you forget who you are, call.....                | D&C 132:30-31     |
| When in sin and your soul is afflicted, call.....     | 2 Ne. 4:26-35     |
| When you stumble and fall, call.....                  | Mos. 27:29        |
| For help with rebirth, call.....                      | Mos. 5:7-8, 27:25 |
| If your soul is hungry, call.....                     | 2 Ne. 9:50-52     |
| If your soul rejoices in Christ, call.....            | 2 Ne. 25:26       |

|  |                            |
|--|----------------------------|
| When you forget to pray, call.....                 | 2 Ne. 32:8-9               |
| When your soul hungers, call.....                  | Enos 4                     |
| When your burdens are too great, call.....         | Mos. 24:14-15              |
| When you desire great joy, call.....               | Mos. 4:11-12               |
| In case of heart failure, call.....                | Mos. 5:2, Alma 5:14        |
| When you come upon the hungry and naked, call..... | Mos. 4:14-19               |
| When you need counseling, call.....                | Alma 37:35-3               |
| When you are hungry, call.....                     | Alma 32:41-43              |
| When heaven seems far away, call.....              | Alma 34:19-27              |
| For the Labor Board, call.....                     | Alma 34:32-34              |
| When you are incarcerated in prison, call.....     | Alma 36:16-27              |
| To sustain life, call.....                         | Alma 37:47                 |
| For a building contractor, call.....               | Alma 5:12                  |
| When death is imminent, call.....                  | Mos. 15:18-25, 16:7, 10-11 |
| When your soul has been saved, call.....           | 1 Tim. 4:7-8               |

Emergency numbers may be dialed direct but operator (Jesus') assistance is necessary for long distance calls. All lines to heaven are open 24 hours a day. The soul you save may be your own.

"Remember the worth of souls is great in the sight of God." D&C 8:15